

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Pasco, US Patent No. 4,323,951 in view of Ogura et al, US Patent No. 5,915,822 for the reasons stated in point 2 pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

Reconsideration of these rejections is requested respectfully in view of the amendment and the argument herein.

The claims as amended are believed to be allowable in view of the following argument.

Ogura et al (US 5,915,822) relate to a display unit comprising a dial plate 18 and an LC display located in the region of the dial plate. A polarizing filter of the LCD is not shown or described but most used LCDs are twisted nematic LCDs which comprise at least a front polarizer.

As can be seen from Figure 3 the front surface of the display, which faces the observer, is arranged in another plane than the front surface of the LCD.) ①

Furthermore there is gap between the front surfaces of the LCD and the dial plate.) ②

A film applied to the front surface of the dial plate is not disclosed, so that there cannot be a teaching of such a film being arranged in the same plane as the polarizer of the LCD.

Some disadvantages of that known display unit are that shadows arise as a result of extraneous light and reflections between the dial plate and the display. These disadvantages are prevented by a display unit according to present claim 1, as amended.

In view of the above-mentioned differences, the combined teaching of Pasco and Ogura et al cannot show or suggest the invention as set forth in present claim 1.

The primary reference Pasco (US 4,323,951) provides a display unit with a dial plate and a display located in the region of the dial plate. The front surface of the display, which faces an observer, is arranged in the same plane as a front surface of the dial plate, which faces the observer. The front surface of the display contacting the front surface of the dial plate form therewith a continuous surface.

Pasco does not teach that the display is a liquid crystal screen with a polarizing filter arranged on the front surface of the display.

Also not taught is that a film is applied to the front surface of the dial plate.

Since, in Pasco, there is no polarizing filter and no film provided in an arrangement of a polarizing filter in the same plane as a film at the front surface of the dial plate, any teaching, indication or suggestion to these features can not be learned from Pasco.

Would there be arranged a film applied to the dial plate in Pasco, it would not be arranged in the same plane as the polarizing filter.

Upon combining the teachings of Pasco and Ogura et al in the rejection under 35 USC 103, there is no suggestion to arrange a film at the front surface of the dial plate, nor is there a suggestion of the structure of amended claim 1, or of the structure of new claim 16 (supported by Figure 6).


Claims 3, 4 and 11 have been amended for conformance with the amendment of claim 1.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made"

In the event there are further issues remaining the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted;
Peter Brandt, et al

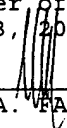
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 23, 2001

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USA Patent Application
Peter Brandt, et al
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DISPLAY UNIT
Examiner: Dung Nguyen
Group art unit: 2871



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4 and 11 as follows:

1. (four times amended) A display unit,
suitable for a vehicle, comprising:

a dial plate and a display located in a
region of the dial plate, the display having a front surface, the
display comprising a liquid crystal screen with a polarizing
filter, the polarizing filter being on the front surface of the
display, wherein

the front surface of the display, which
faces an observer, is arranged in the same plane as a front
surface of the front of the dial plate, which faces the observer,
the front surface of the display contacting the front surface of
the dial to form therewith a continuous surface[.]; and

the display unit further comprises a
film applied to the front surface of the dial plate, and wherein

the polarizing filter is arranged in the same plane as the film at the front surface of the dial plate.

3. (four times amended) The display unit as claimed in claim 1, [further comprising a film applied to the front of the dial plate; and] wherein [the display comprises a liquid crystal screen with a polarizing filter,] the polarizing filter [being] is in a front panel of the display [and arranged in the same plane as the film at the front of the dial plate].

4. (four times amended) The display unit as claimed in claim [3]1, wherein the film covers the dial plate and the display, comprises a scale in the region of the display, and serves as the polarizing filter.

11. (five times amended) The display unit as claimed in claim [3]1, wherein, in the contacting of the front surface of the display with the front surface of the dial, the front polarizing filter of the liquid crystal screen connects to the dial plate film so as to form a single component, and there is [as] an empty space behind the front polarizing filter.